

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claims 11, 17, 20, 28, 34, and 40-47 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-10, 12-16, 18-19, 21-27, 29-33, and 35-39 are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11, 17, 23, 29, and 38 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

With respect to claim 11, claim 11 depends from claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the elements of allowable claim 11. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as well as claims 2-10 and 12-13 depending from claim 1, are in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 17, claim 17 depends from claim 14. Claim 14 has been amended to incorporate the elements of allowable claim 17. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 14, as well as claims 15, 16, 18, and 19 depending from claim 14, are in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 23, claim 23 has been amended to incorporate the elements of its base claim (claim 20). Claims 21, 22, and 24-27 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 23. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 21-27 are in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 29, claim 29 has been amended to incorporate the elements of its base claim (claim 28). Claims 30-32 been amended to depend

from allowable claim 29. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 29-33 are in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 38, claim 38 has been amended to incorporate the elements of its base claim (claim 34). Claims 35-37 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 38. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 35-39 are in condition for allowance.

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement citing U.S. Patent No. 6,163,841 was submitted electronically on March 19, 2004. However, Applicant has not received an initialed copy of the Information Disclosure Statement indicating that the reference has been considered. This Information Disclosure Statement is being resubmitted with this response, including copies of the previously submitted Information Disclosure Statement. Applicant respectfully requests that an initialed copy of the Information Disclosure Statement be returned to Applicant.

35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 20-22, 24-28, 30-37, 39-43, 45, and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. As part of this response, claims 20, 28, and 34 have been canceled without prejudice. The elements of claim 20 have been incorporated into allowable claim 23, the elements of claim 28 have been incorporated into allowable claim 29, and the elements of claim 34 have been incorporated into allowable claim 38. Additionally, claims 21, 22, and 24-27 have been amended to depend from claim 23 rather than claim 20, claims 30-32 have

been amended to depend from claim 29 rather than claim 28, and claims 35-37 have been amended to depend from claim 38 rather than claim 34. These amendments and cancellations have been made to expedite issuance of the allowable claims in the present application. These amendments and cancellations are not intended to be, and are not to be interpreted as, an admission that Applicant agrees with the rejection of claims 20-22, 24-28, 30-37, 39-43, 45, and 46. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 21-22, 24-27, 30-33, 35-37, 39-43, 45, and 46, as amended, comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-10, 12-16, and 18-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements. Regarding claims 1-10, 12, and 13, the omitted structural cooperative relationships are asserted as being the elements found in claim 11, and regarding claims 14-16, 18, and 19, the omitted structural cooperative relationships are asserted as being the elements found in claim 17.

In order to expedite issuance of the allowable claims, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the elements of claim 11, and claim 14 has been amended to incorporate the elements of claim 17. These amendments are not intended to be, and are not to be interpreted as, an admission that Applicant agrees with the rejection of claims 1-10, 12-16, and 18-19. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-10, 12-16, and 18-19, as amended, comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Applicant respectfully requests that the §112 rejections be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 40-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101. In order to expedite issuance of the allowable claims, claims 40-47 have been canceled without prejudice. These cancellations are not intended to be, and are not to be interpreted as, an admission that Applicant agrees with the rejection of claims 40-47. As claims 40-47 have been canceled, Applicant respectfully requests that the §101 rejections be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-10, 12, 14-16, 18, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over “Algebraic Aspects of Cryptography” to Koblitz (hereinafter “Koblitz”) in view of “Applied Cryptography” to Schneier (hereinafter “Schneier”), and U.S. Patent No. 6,845,395 to Blumenau et al (hereinafter “Blumenau”). Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the elements of allowable claim 11. Claim 14 has been amended to incorporate the elements of allowable claim 17. These amendments have been made to expedite issuance of the allowable claims in the present application. These amendments are not intended to be, and are not to be interpreted as, an admission that Applicant agrees with the rejection of claims 1-10, 12, 14-16, 18, and 19.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-10, 12, 14-16, 18, and 19, as amended, are allowable over Koblitz in view of Schneier and Blumenau.

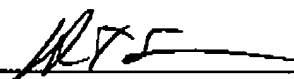
Applicant respectfully requests that the §103 rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Claims 1-10, 12-16, 18-19, 21-27, 29-33, and 35-39 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of the subject application. Should any matter in this case remain unresolved, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner to resolve any such outstanding matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

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